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Gettelman et al.

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(54) **INTERACTIVE VIRTUAL CARE**

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G06F 19/00 (2011.01)
G06T 7/00 (2006.01)
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A61B 3/00 (2006.01)

(52) **U.S. Cl.**

CPC **A61B 5/11** (2013.01); **A61B 5/0062** (2013.01); **A61B 5/112** (2013.01); **A61B 5/1118** (2013.01); **A61B 5/4803** (2013.01); **A61B 19/56** (2013.01); **G06F 19/322** (2013.01); **G06F 19/3418** (2013.01); **G06F 19/3443** (2013.01); **G06T 7/0014** (2013.01); **A61B 3/0041** (2013.01); **A61B 5/0002** (2013.01); **A61B 5/0077** (2013.01); **A61B 5/6898** (2013.01); **A61B 5/744** (2013.01); **A61B 2505/07** (2013.01); **G06T 2207/10021** (2013.01); **G06T 2207/10028** (2013.01); **G06T 2207/30004** (2013.01)

(58) **Field of Classification Search**

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USPC **600/300, 301, 587, 592, 595; 473/615**
See application file for complete search history.

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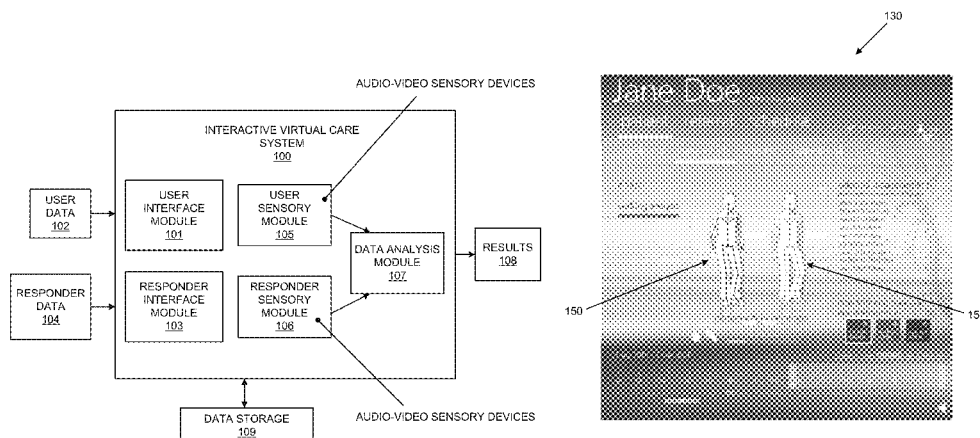
Assistant Examiner — May Abouelela

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(57) **ABSTRACT**

An interactive virtual care system may include a user sensory module to acquire multi-modal user data related to user movement. A data analysis module may compare the multi-modal user data to predetermined historical user data and/or statistical norm data for users to identify an anomaly in the user movement.

16 Claims, 12 Drawing Sheets



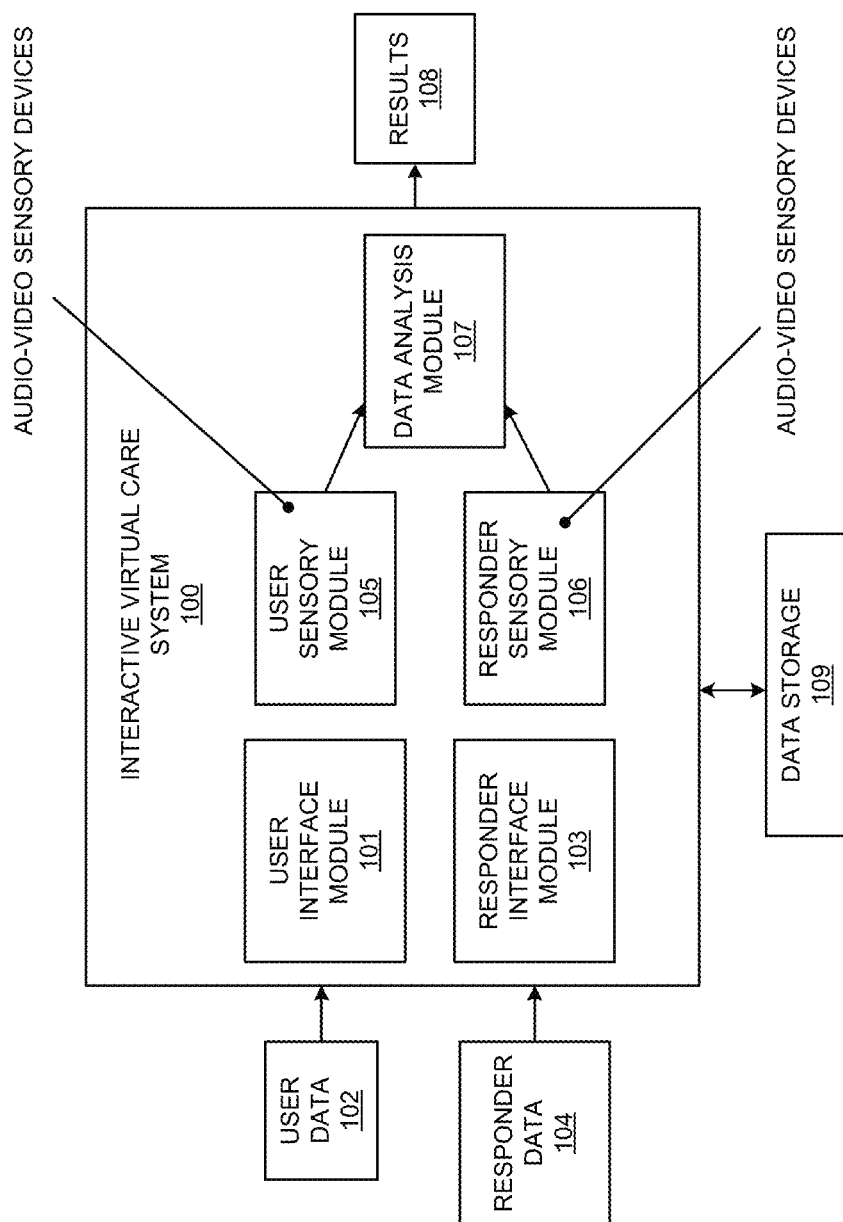


FIG. 1

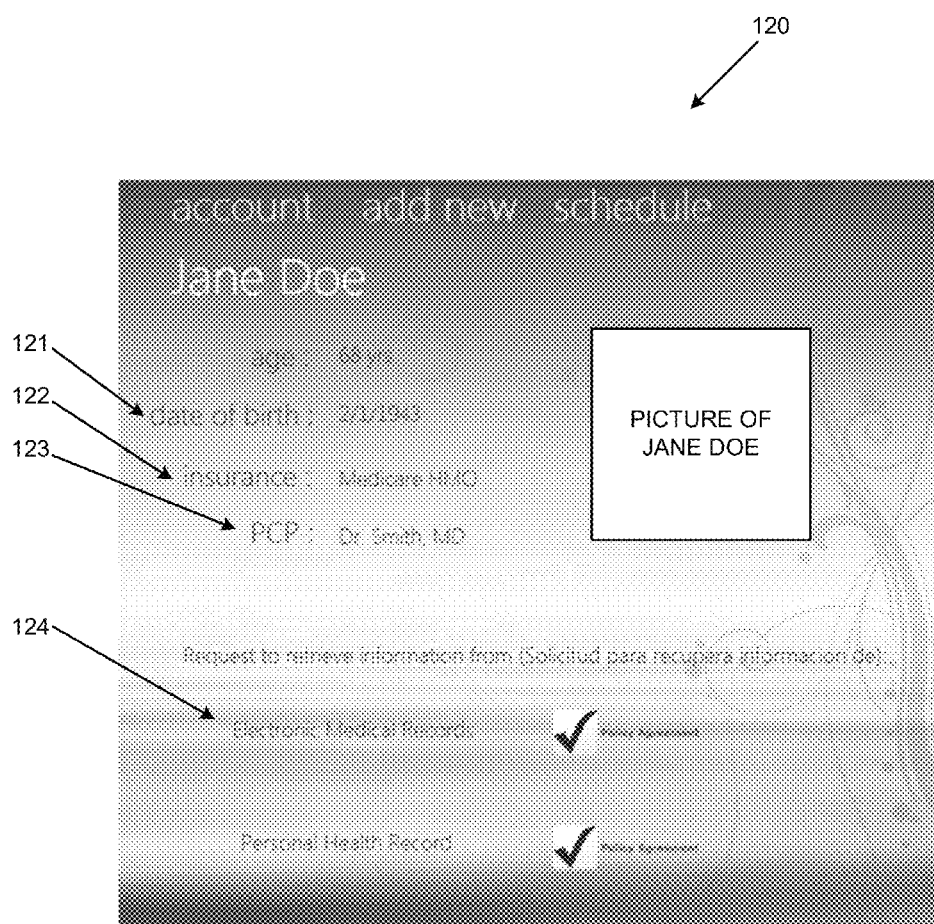


FIG. 2

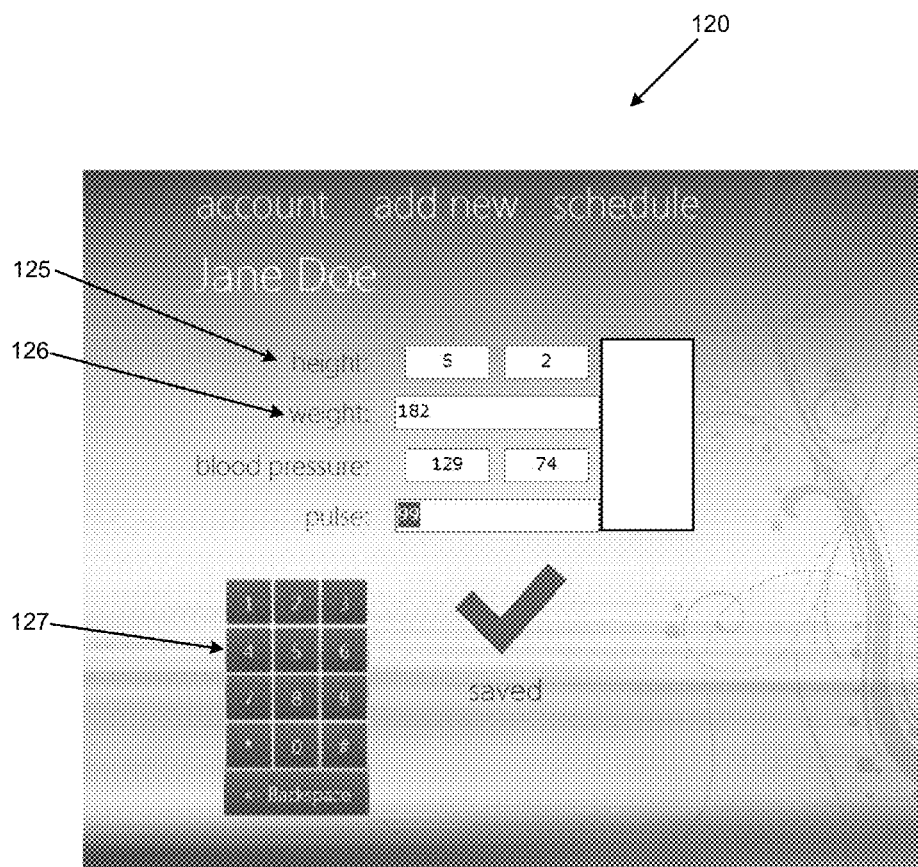


FIG. 3

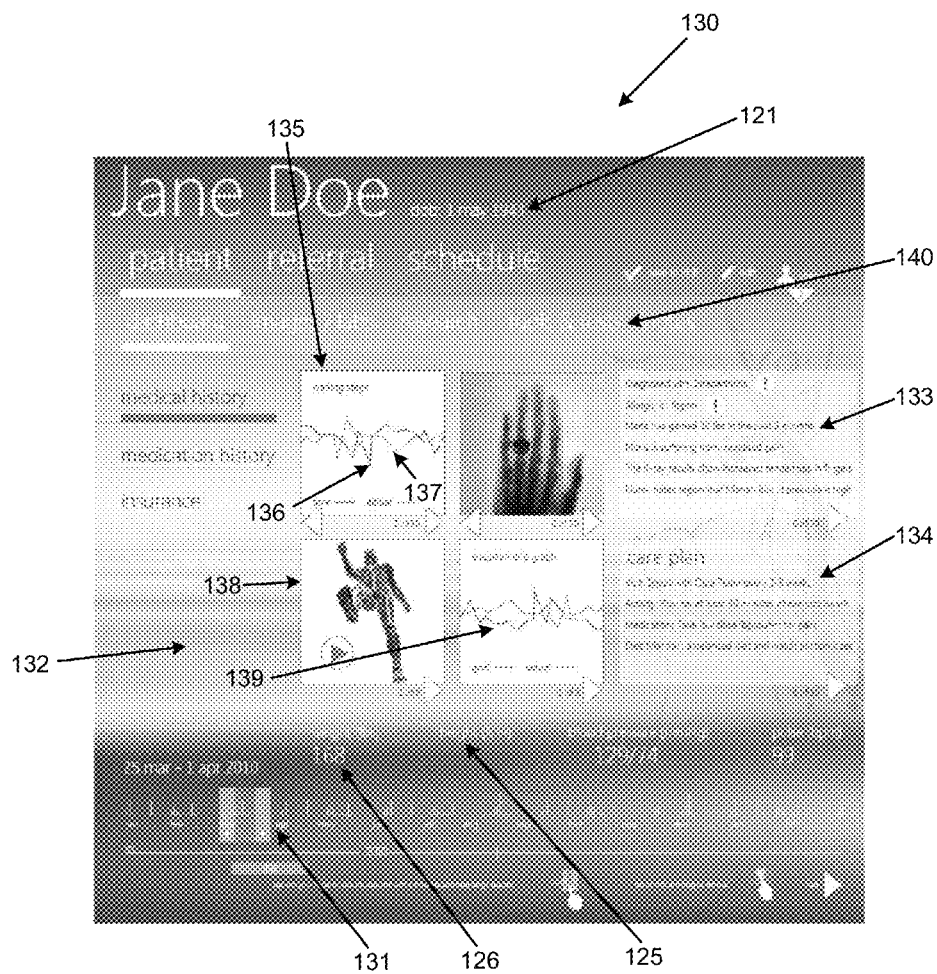


FIG. 4

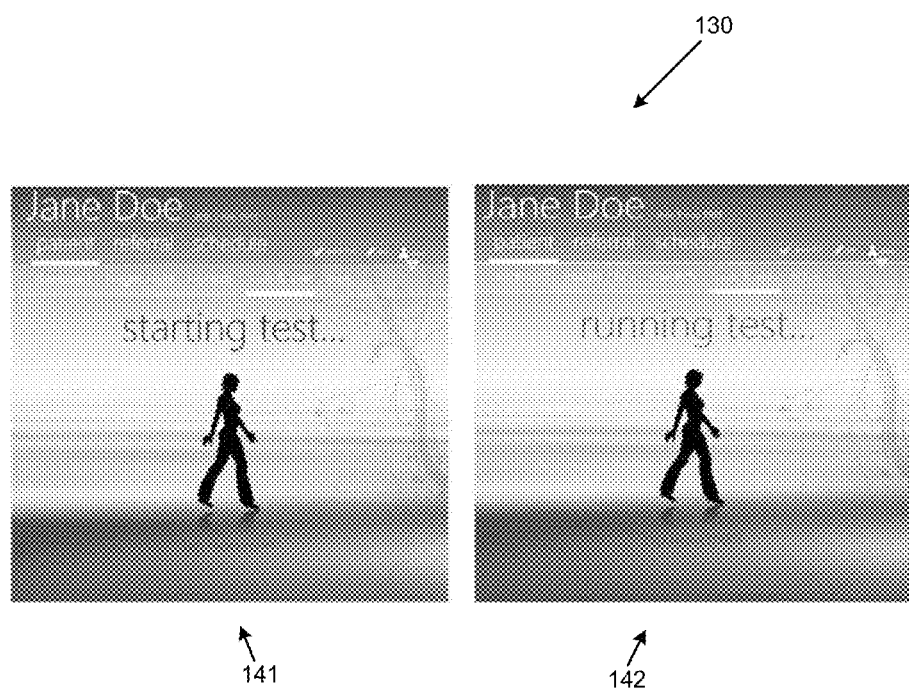


FIG. 5

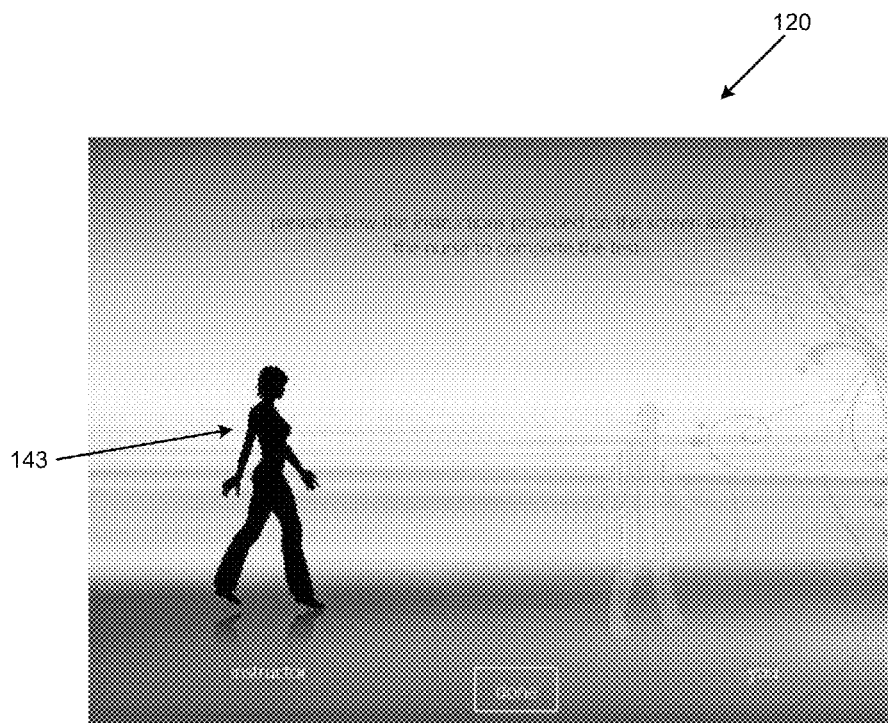


FIG. 6

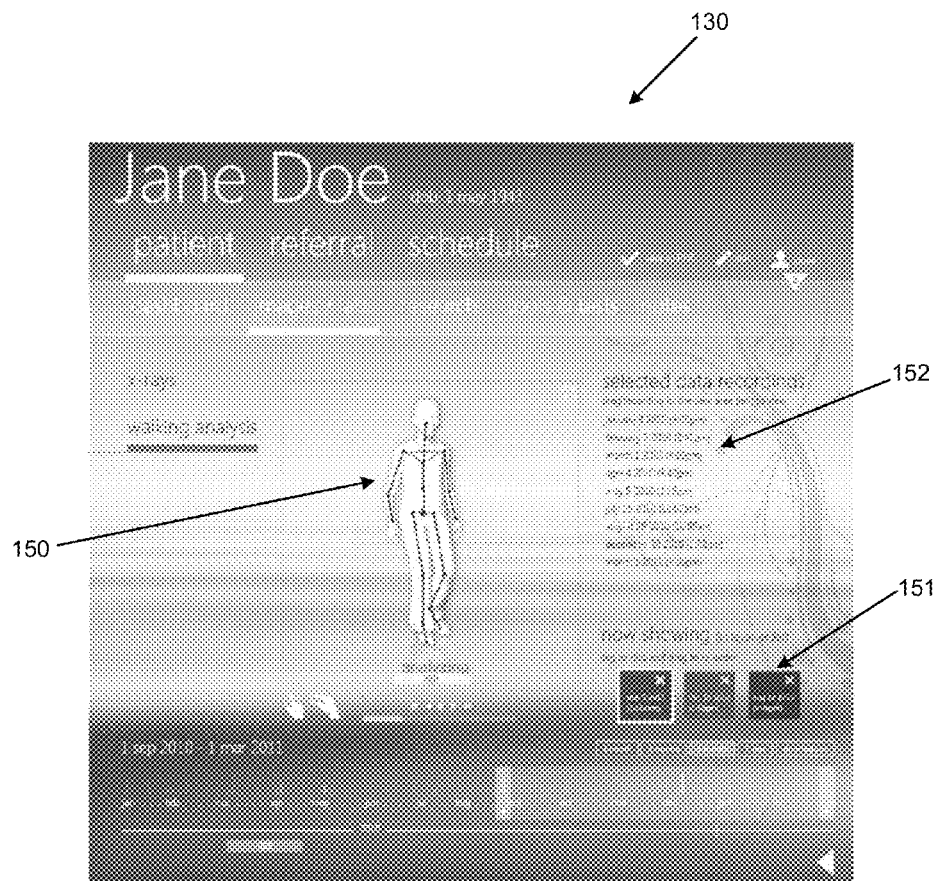


FIG. 7

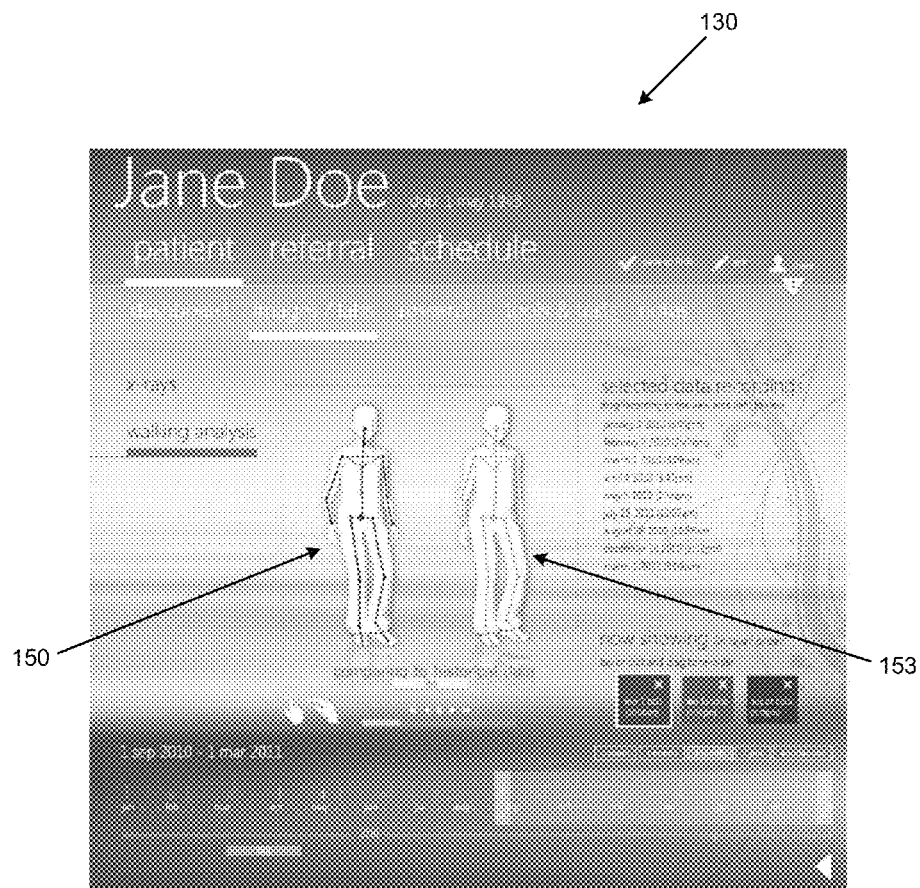


FIG. 8

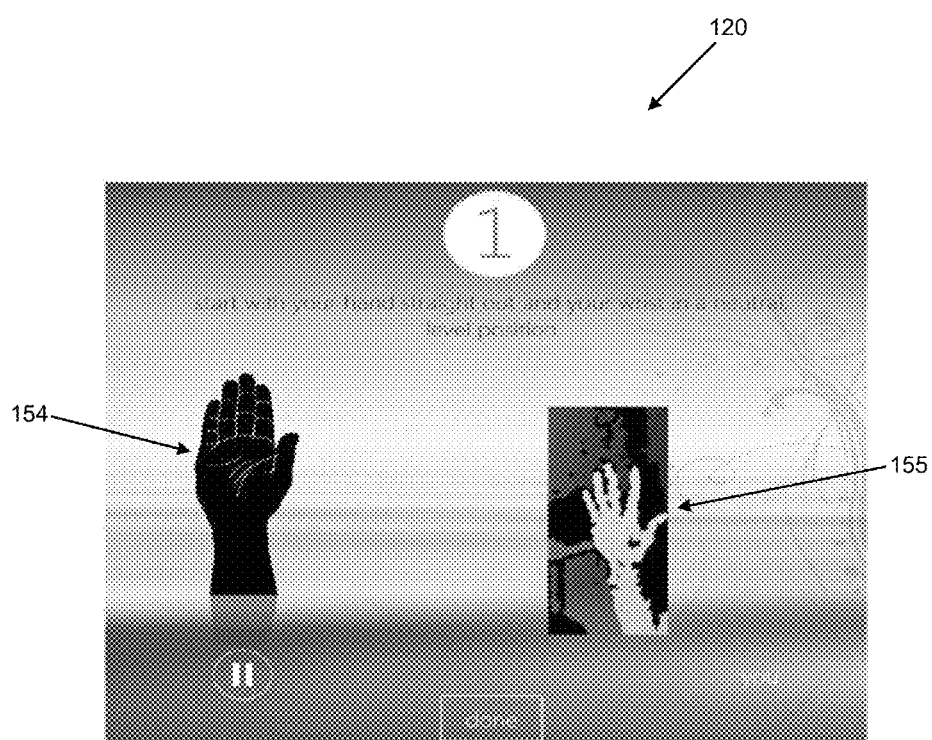


FIG. 9

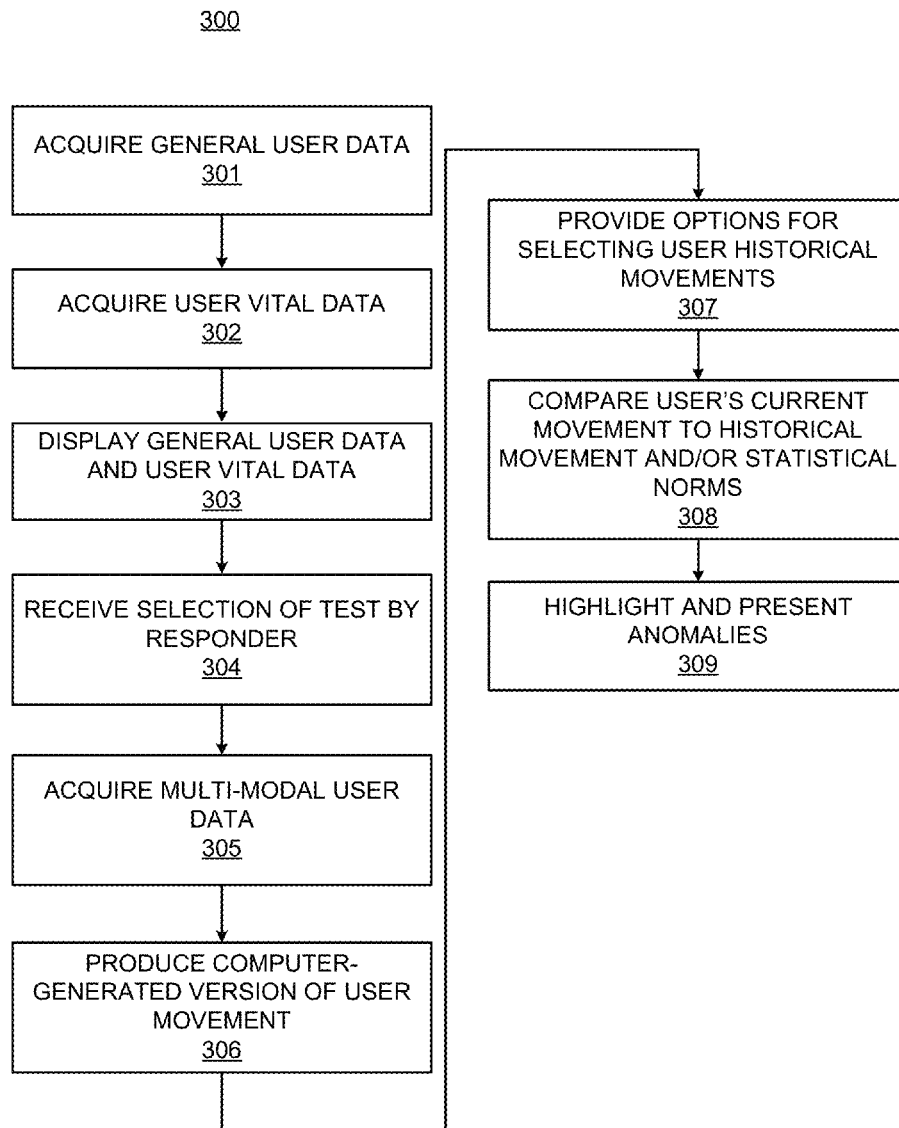


FIG. 10

400

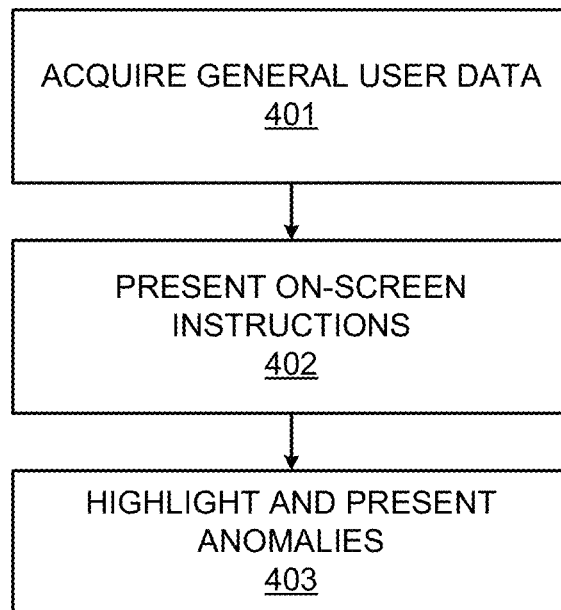


FIG. 11

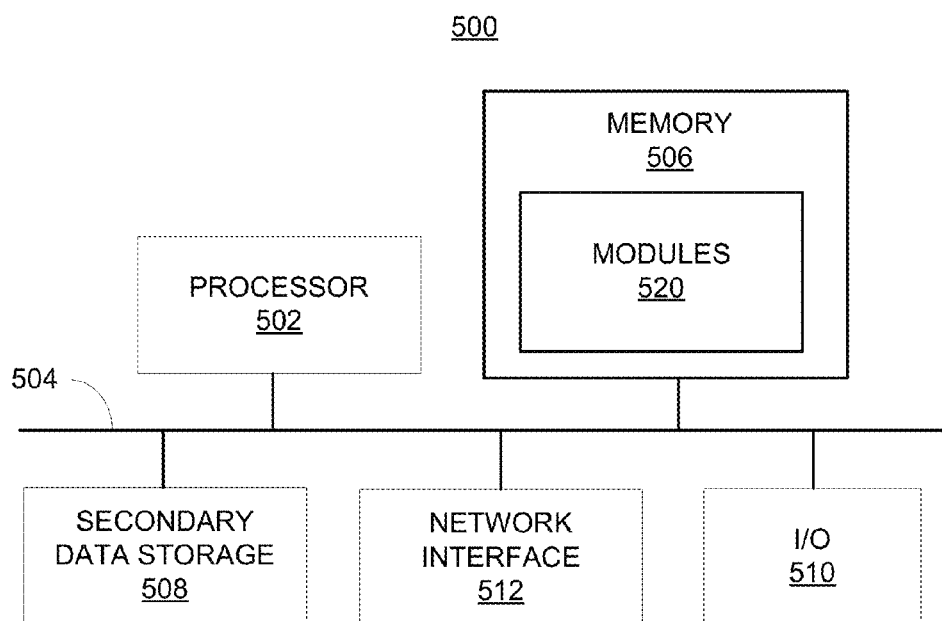


FIG. 12

INTERACTIVE VIRTUAL CARE**PRIORITY**

This application is a Continuation of commonly assigned and copending U.S. patent application Ser. No. 14/293,562, filed Jun. 2, 2014, and entitled "INTERACTIVE VIRTUAL CARE", which is a Continuation of commonly assigned U.S. patent application Ser. No. 13/213,930, filed Aug. 19, 2011, issued as U.S. Pat. No. 8,771,206 on Jul. 8, 2014, and entitled "INTERACTIVE VIRTUAL CARE", which are incorporated by reference in their entirety.

BACKGROUND

In facilities, such as, for example, a health care facility, where an individual's movements may be evaluated, an individual (e.g., a patient) may be evaluated by a health care provider. The evaluation may be based, for example, on visual inspection of the individual's movements. Such visual inspection can result in subjective diagnosis based on the health care provider's interpretation of the individual's movements. The degree or type of impairment of an individual's movements can be a relevant factor in interpretation of the individual's movements. An objective understanding of an individual's movements may facilitate accurate interpretation.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF DRAWINGS

The embodiments are described with reference to the following figures:

FIG. 1 illustrates a system diagram for an interactive virtual care system, according to an embodiment;

FIG. 2 illustrates an example of a screen display for the interactive virtual care system, illustrating, for example, a user view of general user data;

FIG. 3 illustrates an example of a screen display for the interactive virtual care system, illustrating, for example, user vital data entry;

FIG. 4 illustrates an example of a screen display for the interactive virtual care system, illustrating, for example, a responder view of general and user vital data;

FIG. 5 illustrates an example of a screen display for the interactive virtual care system, illustrating, for example, a responder view of a user movement test;

FIG. 6 illustrates an example of a screen display for the interactive virtual care system, illustrating, for example, a user view of remote movement instructions;

FIG. 7 illustrates an example of a screen display for the interactive virtual care system, illustrating, for example, a responder view of user movement;

FIG. 8 illustrates an example of a screen display for the interactive virtual care system, illustrating, for example, a responder view of user movement and historical analysis;

FIG. 9 illustrates an example of a screen display for the interactive virtual care system, illustrating, for example, a user view for on-screen instructions;

FIG. 10 illustrates a method for interactive virtual care, according to an embodiment;

FIG. 11 illustrates a method for interactive virtual care, according to an embodiment; and

FIG. 12 illustrates a computer system, according to an embodiment.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF EMBODIMENTS

For simplicity and illustrative purposes, the principles of the embodiments are described by referring mainly to

examples thereof. In the following description, numerous specific details are set forth in order to provide a thorough understanding of the embodiments. It will be apparent that the embodiments may be practiced without limitation to all the specific details. Also, the embodiments may be used together in various combinations.

An interactive virtual care system may provide for highly interactive virtual care consultations, for example, between two remote individuals. For facilities, such as, for example, a health care facility, the individuals may include a user (e.g., a patient) and a responder (e.g., a health care provider) located at a remote location from the user. The discussion below includes examples of application of the system for a patient and a health care provider. However, the system may be used with other industries for evaluation of any type of movement of an individual. For a health care facility, the system may provide for face-to-face video and two-way sharing of a patient's health information, and further include the use of computer-vision technology to assist the remote interaction by capturing and analyzing, for example, the patient's movements. These capabilities may offer a remote health care provider an enhanced view of a patient's condition. The system may also provide for computer-assisted speech and audio analysis of a health care provider's and patient's interactions.

The interactive virtual care system may include a user sensory module to acquire multi-modal user data related to user movement. The modules and other components of the system may include machine readable instructions, hardware or a combination of machine readable instructions and hardware. Multi-modal user data may refer to data acquired by multiple modes of input or output, such as a depth camera and/or a microphone array as discussed below. A data analysis module may compare the multi-modal user data to predetermined historical user data and/or statistical norm data for users to identify an anomaly in the user movement. The user sensory module may include a depth camera to acquire the multi-modal user data. The user sensory module may also include a microphone array to acquire multi-modal user data related to speech. A responder sensory module may acquire multi-modal responder data related to responder movement. The data analysis module may compare the multi-modal user data to the multi-modal responder data to identify an anomaly in the user movement. A user and/or responder interface modules may display a computer-generated version of the user movement that highlights movements of predetermined portions of a user's body. The user and/or responder interface modules may further display a real-time version of the user movement adjacent to and/or superimposed on the computer-generated version of the user movement, for example, to facilitate identification of an anomaly. The user and/or responder interface modules may further highlight the anomaly in the user movement in the computer-generated version of the user movement. For comparison of the multi-modal user data to the predetermined historical user data, a range of the predetermined historical user data may be selectable. The user and/or responder interface modules may include, for example, a keyboard and/or touch screen format for data entry.

A method for interactive virtual care may include acquiring multi-modal user data related to user movement, and comparing the multi-modal user data to predetermined historical user data and/or statistical norm data for users to identify at least one anomaly in the user movement. The method may further include acquiring the multi-modal user data by a depth camera and multi-modal user data related to speech by a microphone array. The method may include displaying a computer-generated version of the user movement that high-

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lights movements of predetermined portions of a user's body. The method may include displaying a real-time version of the user movement adjacent to and/or superimposed on the computer-generated version of the user movement. The method may include highlighting the anomaly in the user movement in the computer-generated version of the user movement.

A non-transitory computer readable medium having stored thereon a computer executable program to provide interactive virtual care, the computer executable program when executed may cause a computer system to acquire multi-modal user data related to user movement, and compare the multi-modal user data to predetermined historical user data and/or statistical norm data for users to identify at least one anomaly in the user movement.

An example of a use scenario of the interactive virtual care system may include a user (e.g., a patient) with a medical condition visiting, for example, a retail clinic for a virtual visit with a remotely located responder (e.g., a health care provider). The user may be checked into the system by a nurse or another locally disposed health care provider. The health care provider may collect the user data, such as, for example, vitals and enter the information via the user interface module. The user data may be sent to the responder interface module for viewing by the remotely located responder. The remote responder may send, for example, exercises to the user interface module for user diagnosis and evaluation, and may otherwise communicate with the user via the responder sensory module. The user may perform the exercises or proceed as directed by the remote responder, and all user activities may be captured by the user sensory module. The data analysis module may analyze all data captured from the user and responder interface modules, and all data captured by the user and responder sensory modules to generate results based on comparison of user specific history data and/or history data of a range of users generally to determine any anomalies. The history data for the range of users may be in the form of statistical norms for users. These anomalies and other result data may be reported to the remote responder, whereby the responder may diagnose the user's condition and render appropriate treatment in the form of a prescription or other activities.

As discussed above, the interactive virtual care system may provide remote acquisition of multi-modal user data via the user sensory module, which may include, for example, high-fidelity audio-video sensory devices. Likewise, responder data may be remotely acquired via the responder sensory module, which may also include, for example, high-fidelity audio-video sensory devices. As described in detail below, the audio-video sensory devices may include, for example, a depth camera and microphone arrays. The depth camera may include, for example, a MICROSOFT KINECT camera system. In a healthcare environment, the data acquired from the user and responder sensory modules may be used to augment patient reported symptoms and professionally obtained biometric data to assist a remote health care provider in arriving at more accurate medical diagnoses.

As discussed herein, the interactive virtual care system may facilitate an interactive care delivery approach that may involve the use of user data to help a responder arrive at more accurate medical diagnoses. For example, data related to a user's walking and gesture patterns (e.g., gaits, strides, balances) may be acquired unobtrusively using, for example, depth-perceiving camera arrays. Data related to a user's vocal and/or speech patterns may be acquired unobtrusively using, for example, microphone arrays. The visual and audio data may be transmitted to the data analysis module and analyzed for anomaly identification by comparing, for example, popu-

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lation norms as well as historical patterns of the particular user. Such anomalies may be highlighted and presented on the user and/or responder interface modules based on the system configuration. For example, the responder interface module may be used by a health care provider at a remote location to simultaneously view a real-time live video stream of the user (e.g., the patient) performing an action (e.g., walking, stretching) side-by-side with results generated by the data analysis module to assist in arriving at a medical diagnosis. The results generated by the data analysis module may also be shown as an overlay to the real-time video stream of the user.

The interactive virtual care system may also be used in an unsupervised environment (e.g., without interaction with a responder) to provide a user (e.g., a patient) visual cues to guide the user through the correct process. For example, a treatment process (e.g., physical therapy routine or exercise) may be observed, validated and recorded under the direction of a health care provider at a remote location. A derivative outline from the recorded footage may be used to automatically guide a user through a treatment process regimen while the user is in an unsupervised setting, such as, for example, at home. The user's subsequent unsupervised in-home exercise/physical therapy sessions may be recorded and transmitted through the same remote hosting application for purposes of being viewed by a remote health care provider and/or additional analysis and comparison against the user's historical patterns. As the remote health care provider monitors the user's progress, the remote health care provider may adapt the user's treatment regimen over time, for example, by adjusting and transmitting a new or modified derivative outline from the user's recorded footage.

The interactive virtual care system may be usable, for example, to provide remote health care expertise to any environment located a distance away from a primary health care provider, such as, for example, a remote clinic. The system may also be usable at any location convenient to a user, such as, for example, a user's home. The system may be usable in a stand-alone configuration, such as, for example, a kiosk, or may be uploaded to an existing computer system, for example, in a clinic environment.

The systems and methods described herein provide a technical solution to the technical problem of comparing user movement and/or speech with prior historical data or statistical norms for users to determine anomalies. In many instances, manual comparison of user movement or speech with prior historical data or statistical norms is not a viable solution given the size of such data and variability involved in the manual comparison, which can lead to inconsistent results. The systems and methods according to the embodiments provide the technical solution of objectively determining anomalies based on, for example, a computer-generated version of the user movement that highlights anomalies.

FIG. 1 illustrates an interactive virtual care system 100, according to an embodiment. Referring to FIG. 1, the system 100 may include a user interface module 101 to input user data 102, and a responder interface module 103 to input responder data 104. As described in further detail below, the various components of the system 100 may be operable to capture and analyze data from multiple users and responders, which may include data pertaining to a user, for example a patient, and data pertaining to a responder, for example a health care provider. The modules and sub-components of the system 100 may be combined or partitioned without departing from the scope of the system 100, and are partitioned as shown in FIG. 1 for facilitating an understanding of the system 100. For example, the user and responder interface modules 101, 103 may be combined as a general system interface

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module. A user sensory module **105** may include audio and video capture and relay capabilities for respectively capturing and relaying information related to a user to a responder. A responder sensory module **106** may likewise include audio and video capture and relay capabilities for respectively capturing and relaying information from a responder to a user. A data analysis module **107** may analyze the user and responder data **102**, **104** and data captured by the user and responder sensory modules **105**, **106** to generate results **108**, such as, for example, patient specific metrics to a health care provider or results and/or instructions to a patient. The data analysis module **107** may be implemented in a cloud environment, instead of as a component of the system **100**. The system **100** may provide for the same data to be viewed by either the user or the responder without sending the actual data between the user and responder interface modules **101**, **103**. A data storage **109** may be provided for storing information utilized by the system **100**, which may include, for example, user specific history data or history data of a range of users generally. The user data and history data may be used to generate statistical norms used for comparison as described below.

Referring to FIG. 2, an example is shown of a user screen display **120** for the user interface module **101**, illustrating, for example, use of the system **100** in a health care facility and a patient view of general patient data. The screen display **120** may include, for example, general patient data, such as, patient date of birth at **121**, insurance information at **122**, health care provider information at **123**, and agreements to proceed with the virtual health care process at **124**.

FIG. 3 illustrates an example of the user screen display **120** illustrating, for example, patient vital data entry. The screen display **120** may include, for example, patient vital data, such as, patient height at **125**, weight at **126** etc., and a touch screen keypad **127** for entry of the patient vital data. Alternatively, biometric devices, such as, for example, a blood pressure monitor or a weight scale may be coupled to the user sensory module **105** for automatic capture of patient vital data.

Referring to FIG. 4, an example is shown of a responder screen display **130** for the responder interface module **103**, illustrating, for example, a health care provider view of the general and patient vital data. For the system **100** implemented, for example, as a kiosk, the screen displays **120**, **130** may be provided adjacent each other so that the user and healthcare provider may each see two or more displays. As discussed above, the screen displays **120**, **130** are provided for illustrative purposes only and may be combined in a single or distributed across other multiple displays. For example, a user may see the screen display **120** including user specific information and the screen display **130** including instructions from the responder as a combined display.

Referring to FIG. 4, the screen display **130** may include, for example, general patient data, such as, patient date of birth at **121**, and patient vital data, such as, patient height at **125**, weight at **126** etc. The screen display **130** may also include a timeline **131** selectable to determine a patient's medical history for comparison. For example, as shown in FIG. 4, a health care provider may select a timeline from Mar. 25, 2010-Apr. 1, 2010. The user medical records may be displayed at windows **132**, and may include, for example, notes related to previous patient ailments at **133** and health care provider diagnosis at **134**. Other windows may display metrics related to a patient's walking goals at **135**, with the goal metrics being displayed at **136** and patient actual metrics being displayed at **137**. A history of patient performance in other tests may be displayed at **138** and **139**.

FIG. 5 illustrates an example of the screen display **130**, illustrating, for example, a health care provider view of a

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patient movement test which may be initiated by selecting a "tools & tests" option at **140** as shown in the FIG. 4 screen display. Assuming for example the user complains of knee pain, the test options **141** or **142** may be selected. FIG. 6 illustrates an example of the user screen display **120**, illustrating, for example, a patient view of remote movement instructions. Assuming the health care provider selects the test at **141**, the user screen display **120** may provide the patient an example of movement at **143** requested by the health care provider. For example, the patient may be requested to walk ten feet as shown in the illustration of FIG. 6.

Referring to FIG. 7, an example of the responder screen display **130** may illustrate, for example, a health care provider view of patient movement recorded by the user sensory module **105**. The user sensory module **105** may include high-fidelity audio-video sensory devices. The audio-video sensory devices may include, for example, a depth camera and microphone arrays. The depth camera may include, for example, a MICROSOFT KINECT camera system. Responder data may also be acquired via the responder sensory module **106**, which may also include, for example, high-fidelity audio-video sensory devices. The user sensory module **105** may provide real-time digitization of user movement to produce a computer-generated version of the user movement that highlights anomalies, where the movement may be displayed at **150**. For example, an anomaly related to a knee joint may highlight the knee joint area in the display at **150** and/or provide metrics related to the degree or extent of the anomaly in the results **108**. The real-time digitization may be based on interpretation of movement by the user sensory module **105**.

Options for selecting user historical movements may be presented at **151**, and a listing of all previously recorded user movement analysis may be presented at **152**. The data acquired from the user sensory module **105** may be used to augment patient reported symptoms and the biometric data related to patient movement at **150** to assist the remote health care provider in arriving at more accurate medical diagnoses. Data related to the user's vocal and/or speech patterns may also be acquired by the user sensory module **105** by using, for example, microphone arrays.

Referring to FIG. 8, an example is shown of the screen display **130**, illustrating, for example, a health care provider view of patient movement and historical analysis. Referring to FIGS. 7 and 8, assuming a comparison is made between a patient's current movement at **150** and historical movement at **153**, the current and historical movements may be displayed adjacent each other as shown. The historical movement may be selected from the user historical movements at **151** or the listing of previously recorded user analysis at **152**. Based on the selection, the data analysis module **107** may perform an analysis for anomaly identification by comparing the patient's current movement at **150** with the patient's selected historical movement. Alternatively, the data analysis module **107** may perform an analysis for anomaly identification by comparing the patient's current movement at **150** with statistical population norms, and identifying any significant deviation from such population norms. Such anomalies may be highlighted and presented on the user and/or responder interface modules **101**, **103** based on the system configuration. For example, the responder interface module **103** may include the display at **130** as shown in FIG. 8. The display may be used by a health care provider at a remote location to simultaneously view in real-time a live video stream of the user (e.g., the patient) performing an action side-by-side with the computer-generated results (e.g., the patient's current movement at **150**)

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generated by the data analysis module **107** to assist in arriving at a medical diagnosis. Based on anomaly identification, the health care provider at the remote location may provide a medical diagnosis and further instructions as needed.

The anomaly identification performed by the data analysis module **107** may be determined by comparing user specific movement and/or audio information with prior history information for the user (e.g., movement data collected 6 months ago), or with statistical norms of similar users. The similarity of users may be based, for example, on metrics such as age, gender, race, height, weight, general demographics and other health conditions. The real-time digitization of user movement captured by the user sensory module **105** may be used to compare points of interest for the patient to prior patient history information and/or statistical norms of similar users as described above. For example, for movement information, the data analysis module **107** may compare changes at various joints of a patient to determine, for example, limp development, changes in posture, a length of time taken for a certain movement etc. For example, in order to determine limp development, the data analysis module **107** may determine that based on a starting position, the patient has a longer stride using a right leg as compared to a left leg. Factors such as a length of time taken for certain movement may also be compared to historical data for the patient which may be used as a threshold to determine if there has been improvement compared to the historical data. Alternatively, factors such as a length of time taken for certain movement may also be compared to statistical norms which may be used as a threshold to determine if the user falls within or outside of such statistical norms.

The data analysis module **107** may also be trainable to recommend diagnosis based on anomaly identification. For example, for an anomaly related to a length of time it takes for movement of a right leg versus a left leg, or based on the length of a stride using a right leg versus a left leg, the data analysis module **107** may recommend a diagnosis related to limp development (e.g., physical therapy focused on gait). The data analysis module **107** may also be trainable to generate a recommended treatment based on the recommended diagnosis.

Referring to FIG. **9**, an example is shown of the screen display **120**, illustrating, for example, a user view for on-screen instructions. As shown in FIG. **9**, an example of the on-screen instructions is shown at **154** where the user (e.g., the patient) may follow the instructions and the user's movements may be displayed in the window at **155**. The on-screen instructions **154** of FIG. **9** may be performed with a responder (e.g., the health care provider) viewing the user response at a remote location or under unsupervised conditions. Alternatively, a user or a responder may record the on-screen instructions **154**, which may serve as a template for the user to follow, and the user may perform the movements under unsupervised conditions. The template may serve as the baseline for anomaly identification. The data analysis module **107** may identify anomalies based on comparison of the data obtained by the user sensory module **105** with the template, or based on comparison of the data obtained by the user sensory module **105** with prior user-specific historical data or with statistical norms of similar users as discussed above. The user may also follow instructions from a responder and the multi-modal user data may be compared to the multi-modal responder data to identify an anomaly in the user movement. The identified anomalies may be subsequently analyzed by a responder (e.g., the health care provider).

FIG. **10** illustrates a flowchart of a method **300** for interactive virtual care, according to an embodiment. FIG. **11** illus-

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trates a flowchart of a method **400** for interactive virtual care, according to an embodiment. The methods **300** and **400** may be implemented on the interactive virtual care system **100** described above with reference to FIGS. **1-9** by way of example and not limitation. The methods **300** and **400** may be practiced in other systems.

For the method **300**, referring to FIGS. **1, 2** and **10**, at block **301**, for use in a health care facility, the interactive virtual care system **100** may acquire general user (e.g., patient) data, such as, patient date of birth at **121**, insurance information at **122**, health care provider information at **123**, and agreements to proceed with the virtual health care process at **124**. Capture of the general user data may be automated, for example, by attaching a magnetic strip card or a user-specific ID issued, for example, by a health insurer.

At block **302**, referring to FIGS. **1, 3** and **10**, the system **100** may acquire user vital data, such as, patient height at **125**, weight at **126** etc.

At block **303**, referring to FIGS. **1, 4** and **10**, the system **100** may display the general user data and user vital data at the responder interface module **103**. The system **100** may receive selection of the timeline **131**, which is selectable to determine a patient's medical history for comparison. As discussed above, the user medical records may be displayed at windows **132**, and may include, for example, notes related to previous patient ailments at **133** and health care provider diagnosis at **134**. Other windows may display metrics related to a patient's walking goals at **135**, with the goal metrics being displayed at **136** and patient actual metrics being displayed at **137**. A history of patient performance in other tests may be displayed at **138** and **139**.

At block **304**, referring to FIGS. **1, 5** and **10**, the system **100** may receive a selection of a test by a responder. For example, the system **100** may receive selection of the "tools & tests" option at **140** as shown in the FIG. **4** screen display. Assuming the system **100** receives selection of the test **141**, the user screen display **120** may provide the patient an example of movement at **143** requested by the health care provider. For example, the patient may be requested to walk ten feet as shown in the illustration of FIG. **6**.

At block **305**, referring to FIGS. **1, 7** and **10**, the user sensory module **105** may acquire multi-modal user data **102** related to user movement. Referring to FIG. **7**, an example of the responder screen display **130** may illustrate, for example, a health care provider view of patient movement recorded by the user sensory module **105**.

At block **306**, referring to FIGS. **7** and **10**, the user sensory module **105** may provide real-time digitization of user movement to produce a computer-generated version of the user movement that highlights anomalies, where the movement may be displayed at **150**. The real-time digitization may be based on interpretation of movement by the user sensory module **105**.

At block **307**, referring to FIGS. **7** and **10**, the responder interface module **103** may provide options for selecting user historical movements at **151**, and a listing of all previously recorded user movement analysis may be displayed at **152**.

At block **308**, referring to FIGS. **1, 7, 8** and **10**, the data analysis module **107** may compare a patient's current movement at **150** and historical movement at **153**, with the current and historical movements being displayed adjacent each other as shown. The historical movement may be selected from the user historical movements at **151** or the listing of previously recorded user analysis at **152**. Based on the selection, the data analysis module **107** may perform an analysis for anomaly identification by comparing the patient's current movement at **150** with the patient's selected historical move-

ment. Alternatively, the data analysis module 107 may perform an analysis for anomaly identification by comparing the patient's current movement at 150 with statistical population norms, and identifying any significant deviation from such population norms.

At block 309, referring to FIGS. 1, 7, 8 and 10, the data analysis module 107 may highlight and present anomalies on the user and/or responder interface modules 101, 103 based on the system configuration. The data analysis module 107 may also generate metrics of the degree or extent of the anomalies as the results 108. For example, the responder interface module 103 may include the display at 130 as shown in FIG. 8. The display may be used by a health care provider at a remote location to simultaneously view in real-time a live video stream of the user (e.g., the patient) performing an action side-by-side with the computer-generated results (e.g., the patient's current movement at 150) generated by the data analysis module 107 to assist in arriving at a medical diagnosis. Based on anomaly identification, the health care provider at the remote location may provide a medical diagnosis and further instructions as needed.

For the method 400, referring to FIGS. 1, 9 and 11, at block 401, the interactive virtual care system 100 may acquire general user (e.g., patient) data.

At block 402, if a user is to perform tests under unsupervised conditions or following a responder's movements, the user interface module 101 may present on-screen instructions as shown at 154 where the user (e.g., the patient) may follow the instructions and the user's movements may be displayed in the window at 155. The on-screen instructions 154 of FIG. 9 may be performed with a responder (e.g., the health care provider) viewing the user response at a remote location or under unsupervised conditions. Alternatively, a user or a responder may record the on-screen instructions 154, which may serve as a template for the user to follow, and the user may perform the movements under unsupervised conditions. The template may serve as the baseline for anomaly identification. In the unsupervised setting, a user may contact the responder at a remote location for assistance as needed.

At block 403, the data analysis module 107 may identify anomalies based on comparison of the data obtained by the user sensory module 105 with the template, or based on comparison of the data obtained by the user sensory module 105 with prior user-specific historical data or with statistical norms of similar users as discussed above. The identified anomalies may be subsequently analyzed by a responder (e.g., the health care provider).

FIG. 12 shows a computer system 500 that may be used with the embodiments described herein. The computer system 500 represents a generic platform that includes components that may be in a server or another computer system. The computer system 500 may be used as a platform for the system 100. The computer system 500 may execute, by a processor or other hardware processing circuit, the methods, functions and other processes described herein. These methods, functions and other processes may be embodied as machine readable instructions stored on computer readable medium, which may be non-transitory, such as hardware storage devices (e.g., RAM (random access memory), ROM (read only memory), EPROM (erasable, programmable ROM), EEPROM (electrically erasable, programmable ROM), hard drives, and flash memory).

The computer system 500 includes a processor 502 that may implement or execute machine readable instructions performing some or all of the methods, functions and other processes described herein. Commands and data from the processor 502 are communicated over a communication bus

504. The computer system 500 also includes a main memory 506, such as a random access memory (RAM), where the machine readable instructions and data for the processor 502 may reside during runtime, and a secondary data storage 508, which may be non-volatile and stores machine readable instructions and data. The memory and data storage are examples of computer readable mediums. The memory 506 may include modules 520 including machine readable instructions residing in the memory 506 during runtime and executed by the processor 502. The modules 520 may include the modules 101, 103 and 105-107 of the system 100 shown in FIG. 1.

The computer system 500 may include an I/O device 510, such as a keyboard, a mouse, a display, touchscreen, etc. The computer system 500 may include a network interface 512 for connecting to a network. Other known electronic components may be added or substituted in the computer system 500.

While the embodiments have been described with reference to examples, various modifications to the described embodiments may be made without departing from the scope of the claimed embodiments.

What is claimed is:

1. An interactive virtual care system comprising:

a user sensory module comprising at least one video sensory device to acquire user data related to user movement of at least one portion of a user's body, the user movement of the at least one portion of the user's body being performed at a distance away from the user sensory module,

wherein the user sensory module is further configured to: digitize, in real-time, the user movement of the at least one portion of the user's body based on an interpretation of the acquired user data by the user sensory module, and produce a computer-generated version of the user movement of the at least one portion of the user's body, and transmit a signal of the digitized user movement of the at least one portion of the user's body based on the interpretation of the acquired user data by the user sensory module and the computer-generated version of the user movement of the at least one portion of the user's body, wherein the signal is structured to provide for a display of the digitized user movement of the at least one portion of the user's body, and highlighting of the digitized user movement of the at least one portion of the user's body in the display of the digitized user movement of the at least one portion of the user's body, wherein the computer-generated version of the user movement of the at least one portion of the user's body includes joints of the user's body displayed as connectors and/or skeletal features of the user's body displayed as line segments between the connectors;

a data analysis module, executed by a processor, to cause the processor to:

receive the acquired user data from the user sensory module, and

compare the acquired user data to predetermined historical user data and/or statistical norm data for other users to identify at least one anomaly in the user movement of the at least one portion of the user's body; and

a responder interface module comprising a display, wherein the responder interface module is configured to: display the computer-generated version of the user movement of the at least one portion of the user's body, highlighting the at least one anomaly in the user movement of the at least one portion of the user's body identified by the data analysis module.

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2. The system of claim 1, wherein the at least one video sensory device comprises a video sensor to acquire a video stream of the user movement of the at least one portion of the user's body.

3. The system of claim 1, wherein the at least one video sensory device comprises an audio sensor to acquire user data related to speech.

4. The system of claim 1, wherein the responder interface module is further configured to:

display a real-time version of the user movement of the at least one portion of the user's body adjacent to and/or superimposed on the computer-generated version of the user movement of the at least one portion of the user's body.

5. The system of claim 1, further comprising:

a user interface module comprising a display, wherein the user interface module is configured to:

display the computer-generated version of the user movement of the at least one portion of the user's body, and additionally display a real-time version of the user movement adjacent to and/or superimposed on the computer-generated version of the user movement of the at least one portion of the user's body.

6. The system of claim 1, further comprising:

a user interface module comprising a display, wherein the user interface module is configured to:

display the computer-generated version of the user movement of the at least one portion of the user's body and highlight the at least one anomaly in the user movement of the at least one portion of the user's body identified by the data analysis module in the computer-generated version of the user movement of the at least one portion of the user's body.

7. The system of claim 1, wherein the user movement of the at least one portion of the user's body includes walking, and the at least one portion of the user's body comprises one or both of the user's legs.

8. The system of claim 1, wherein the highlights of the digitized user movement of the at least one portion of the user's body include a computer-generated display of at least one internal feature of the at least one portion of the user's body.

9. The system of claim 1, wherein the predetermined historical user data and the statistical norm data for the other users respectively include computer-generated versions of movements of the at least one portion of the user's body and movements of the same at least one portion of bodies of the other users.

10. A method for interactive virtual care, the method comprising:

acquiring user data related to user movement of at least one portion of a user's body by using a user sensory module comprising at least one video sensory device, the user movement of the at least one portion of the user's body being performed at a distance away from the user sensory module;

digitizing the user movement of the at least one portion of the user's body based on an interpretation of the acquired user data by the user sensory module;

producing a computer-generated version of the user movement of the at least one portion of the user's body;

generating a signal of the digitized user movement of the at least one portion of the user's body based on the interpretation of the acquired user data by the user sensory module and the computer-generated version of the user movement of the at least one portion of the user's body, wherein the signal is structured to provide for a display

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of the digitized user movement of the at least one portion of the user's body, and highlighting of the digitized user movement of the at least one portion of the user's body in the display of the digitized user movement of the at least one portion of the user's body, wherein the highlights of the digitized user movement of the at least one portion of the user's body include a computer-generated display of at least one internal feature of the at least one portion of the user's body;

comparing, by a processor, the acquired user data to predetermined historical user data and/or statistical norm data for other users to identify at least one anomaly in the user movement of the at least one portion of the user's body;

highlighting the at least one anomaly in the user movement of the at least one portion of the user's body in the computer-generated version of the user movement of the at least one portion of the user's body; and providing for display, using the signal, the highlights of the at least one anomaly in the user movement of the at least one portion of the user's body.

11. The method of claim 10, further comprising:

providing for display a real-time version of the user movement of the at least one portion of the user's body adjacent to and/or superimposed on the computer-generated version of the user movement of the at least one portion of the user's body.

12. The method of claim 10, further comprising:

generating metrics related to a degree of the at least one anomaly in the user movement of the at least one portion of the user's body.

13. The method of claim 10, further comprising:

providing for display joints of the user's body as connectors and/or skeletal features of the user's body as line segments between the connectors in the computer-generated version of the user movement of the at least one portion of the user's body.

14. A non-transitory computer readable medium having stored thereon a computer executable program to provide interactive virtual care, the computer executable program when executed causes a computer system to:

acquire user data related to user movement of at least one portion of a user's body by using a user sensory module comprising at least one video sensory device, the user movement of the at least one portion of the user's body being performed at a distance away from the user sensory module;

digitize the user movement of the at least one portion of the user's body based on an interpretation of the acquired user data by the user sensory module;

produce, a computer-generated version of the user movement of the at least one portion of the user's body;

generate a signal of the digitized user movement of the at least one portion of the user's body based on the interpretation of the acquired user data by the user sensory module and the computer-generated version of the user movement of the at least one portion of the user's body, wherein the signal is structured to provide for a display of the digitized user movement of the at least one portion of the user's body, and highlighting of the digitized user movement of the at least one portion of the user's body in the display of the digitized user movement of the at least one portion of the user's body;

compare, by a processor, the acquired user data to predetermined historical user data and/or statistical norm data for other users to identify at least one anomaly in the user movement of the at least one portion of the user's body,

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wherein the predetermined historical user data and the statistical norm data for the other users respectively include computer-generated versions of movements of the at least one portion of the user's body and movements of the same at least one portion of bodies of the other users;

highlight the at least one anomaly in the user movement of the at least one portion of the user's body in the computer-generated version of the user movement of the at least one portion of the user's body; and

provide for display, using the signal, the highlights of the at least one anomaly in the user movement of the at least one portion of the user's body.

15. The non-transitory computer readable medium of claim **14**, the computer executable program when executed further causes the computer system to:

providing for display joints of the user's body as connectors and/or skeletal features of the user's body as line segments between the connectors in the computer-generated version of the user movement of the at least one portion of the user's body.

16. The non-transitory computer readable medium of claim **14**, wherein the highlights of the digitized user movement of the at least one portion of the user's body include a computer-generated display of at least one internal feature of the at least one portion of the user's body.

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